Please add the following new claims:

1 21.   (New) In a data link switching (DLSw) network, a method for improving interaction

2 between a first remote DLSw device coupled to a remote subnetwork including a switch

3 having a forwarding table and a local DLSw device coupled to a local subnetwork including

4 local end stations, the local DLSw device establishing a first logical peer connection with the

5 first remote DLSw device in response to a failure of a second remote DLSw device, the

6 method comprising the steps of:

7   acquiring configuration information by way of a Capabilities Exchange message

8 having an appended control vector;

9   at the first remote DLSw device, using the configuration information to determine the

10 local end stations that are reachable through the first logical DLSw peer connection;

11   generating one or more test frames at the first remote DLSw device, the test frames

12 having source addresses having addresses of the reachable local end stations; and

13   forwarding the test frames through the switch to force the switch to immediately up-

14 date the forwarding table with (i) a port identifier (ID) of a port receiving the test frames at

15 the switch and (ii) the source addresses of those frames.

1 22.   (New) A method as recited in claim 21 wherein the control vector is a media access

2 control (MAC) address list control vector.

1 23.   (New) In a first data link switching (DLSw) device, a method for improving interac-

2 tion between the first DLSw device and a second DLSw device, the method comprising the

3 steps of:

4   acquiring configuration information by way of a Capabilities Exchange message;

5   using the configuration information to determine end stations that are reachable

6 through a logical DLSw peer connection with the second DLSw device;

7   generating one or more test frames, the test frames having source addresses having

8   addresses of the reachable end stations; and

9   forwarding the test frames towards a switch containing a forwarding table to force the

10   switch to immediately update the forwarding table with (i) a port identifier (ID) of a port re-

11   ceiving the test frames at the switch and (ii) the source addresses of those frames.

1   24.   (New) An apparatus for improving interaction between a first data link switching

2   (DLSw) device and a second DLSw device, the first DLSw device establishing a first logical

3   peer connection with the second DLSw device, the apparatus comprising:

4   a configuration data structure having configuration information used to determine end

5   stations that are reachable through the first logical peer connection;

6   at least one test frame structure generated by the first DLSw, the test frame having a

7   source address having an address of a reachable end station; and

8   means for forwarding the test frame structure towards a switch having a forwarding

9   table to force the switch to immediately update the forwarding table with (i) a port identifier

10   (ID) of a port receiving the test frames at the switch and (ii) the source addresses of those

11   frames.

1   25.   (New) An apparatus for improving interaction between a first data link switching

2   (DLSw) device and a second DLSw device, the first DLSw device establishing a first logical

3   peer connection with the second DLSw device, the apparatus comprising:

4   means for acquiring configuration information by way of a Capabilities Exchange

5   message;

6   means for using the configuration information to determine end stations that are

7   reachable through a logical DLSw peer connection with the second DLSw device;